ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BIRD AND MAMMAL LISTS OF THE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK

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The following account updates and amends various previous publications dealing with the birds and mammals of the Mountain Zebra National Park (MZNP). In the case of birds, Roberts’ *Birds of South Africa* numbers are used.

*Birds*


52 DARTER 
SLANghALsVOËL 
*Anhinga rufa* 
(Lacépède et Daudin), 1802 
A rare vagrant to Doornhoek dam.

56 GOLiATH HERON 
REUSE-REIER 
*Ardea goliath* 
Cretzschmar, 1826 
A single adult landed in front of Babylons Toren homestead on the 11th February 1980.

63 GREEN-BACKED HERON 
GROENRUG-REIER 
*Butorides striatus* 
(Linnaeus), 1758 
Single bird seen for several months on the Wilgerboom river during 1979.

69 NIGHT HERON 
NAGREIER 
*Nycticorax nycticorax* 
(Linnaeus), 1758 
Periodic visitor to the Doornhoek dam.

102 RED-EYED POCHARD 
BRUIN EEND 
*Netta erythrophthalma* 
(Weid), 1833 
Common summer visitor to Doornhoek dam occurring in flocks of up to 14 individuals. Although some were in pairs there was no evidence of breeding.
104 WHITE-BACKED DUCK Thalassornis leuconotus
WITRUG-EEND Eyton, 1838
Single bird seen on Doornhoek dam in September 1979.

115 HOBBY Falco subbuteo
EUROPESE BOOMVALK Linnaeus, 1758
Seen flying around Weltevrede during February 1981.

149 FISH EAGLE Haliaeetus vocifer
VISAREND (Daudin), 1800
Immature bird recorded at Doornhoek dam during 1980.

156 RED-BREASTED SPARROWHAWK Accipiter rufiventris
ROOIBORS-SPERWER A. Smith, 1830
Breeding resident found in the Acacia karroo woodland and exotic tree plantations such as poplars and pines. Two known nest sites.

160 AFRICAN GOSHAWK Accipiter tachiro
AFRIKAANSE SPERWER (Daudin), 1800
Breeding resident found in the woodland areas, two nest sites known.

169 BLACK HARRIER Circus maurus
WITKRIJS-VALK (Temminck), 1828
Not uncommon on the open areas such as Rooiplaat, Grootmat and Kranskop ridge.

196 KURRICHANE BUTTON-QUAIL Turnix sylvatica
BOSVELD-KWARTEL (Desfontaine), 1787
Flushed from a grassy patch near Weltevrede during September 1981.

263 GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia
GROENPOOT-RUITER (Gunnerus), 1767
Rare visitor to Doornhoek dam.

269 AVOCET Recurvirostra avosetta
BONT ELSIE Linnaeus, 1758
Pairs seen during the summer months at Doornhoek dam and various pans/dams on Rooiplaat.

270 STILT Himantopus himantopus
ROOIPOOT-ELSIE (Linnaeus), 1758
As for 269.

304 WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN Chlidonias leucoptera
WITVLERK-SWARTSWAEL (Temminck), 1815
Single birds observed periodically over Doornhoek dam.
319 TAMBOURINE DOVE  
*Turtur tympanistria* 
(Wtemminck and Knip), 1810 
Rarely seen, observed in dense *Acacia karroo* along the Wilgerboom river.

346 GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO  
*Clamator glandarius* 
(Linnaeus), 1758 
Seen on several occasions in the Babylons Toren homestead area during October to April 1979/1980.

359 BARN OWL  
*Tyto alba* 
(Scopali), 1769 
Uncommon in the area, one lives near Weltevrede homestead.

385 LITTLE SWIFT  
*Apus affinis* 
(Gray), 1852 
Often seen feeding in noisy flocks near Weltevrede.

395 GIANT KINGFISHER  
*Megaceryle maxima* 
(Pallas), 1769 
Periodic visitor to the area, feeds mainly on freshwater crabs and tadpoles while in the Park.

436 RED-FRONTED TINKER BARBET  
*Pogoniulus pusillus* 
(Dumont), 1806 
Common resident in the *Acacia karroo* woodland around Babylons Toren homestead.

441 SCALY-THROATED HONEYGUIDE  
*Indicator variegatus* 
Lesson, 1831 
A rare vagrant to the MZNP, one single adult seen at close quarters in Fontein Kloof.

474 SPIKE-HEELED LARK  
*Certhilauda albofasciata* 
Lafersnay, 1836 
Breeding resident on Rooiplaat, occurs in pairs or small parties of up to five birds.

559 CAPE ROCK THRUSH  
*Monticola rupestris* 
(Vieillot), 1818 
Infrequently seen in broken country such as the top end of Weltevredekloof.

560 SENTINEL ROCK THRUSH  
*Monticola explorator* 
(Vieillot), 1818 
Also rare and inhabits more open areas than the previous species.

569 BUFF-STREAKED CHAT  
*Myrmecocichla bifasciata* 
(Temminck), 1829 
Recorded below Kranskop by Mr and Mrs G. Collett (pers. comm.).

201
573 MOCKING CHAT
DASSIEVOËL
*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
(Lafresnaye), 1836
Single adult female collected at the Weltevrede research office during 1979.
This appears to be the only record for the Cradock district.

629 FANTAIL CISTICOLA
LANDERY-TINKTINKIE
*Cisticola junci*dis*
(Rafinesque), 1810
Fairly common on Rooiplaat.

639 WAILING CISTICOLA
HUILENDE TINKTINKIE
*Cisticola lais*
(Hartlaub and Finsch), 1870
A common resident of the higher lying areas, overlooked in the past.

646 LE VAILLANT’S CISTICOLA
VLEITINKTINKIE
*Cisticola tinniens*
(Lichtenstein), 1842
Not uncommon on Rooiplaat.

737 CAPE GLOSSY STARLING
KLEIN GLANSSPREEU
*Lamprocolius nitens*
(Linnaeus), 1766
An adult arrived at the Babylons Toren homestead in March 1981 and re-
mained for several months.

787 SOUTHERN GREY-HEADED
SPARROW
GRYSKOP- MOSSIE
*Passer diffusus*
(A. Smith), 1836
Breeding resident at Weltevrede.

833 BLUE-BILLED FIREFINCH
KAAPSE ROBBIN
*Lagonosticta rubricata*
(Lichtenstein), 1823
Quite common in the dense *Acacia karroo/Rhus* spp. complex along the
Wilgerboom River near Babylons Toren.

Mammals

The small mammals of the MZNP are discussed in De Graaff & Nel (1970, *Koedoe*
*Koedoe* 17: 173-183). Some are also included in *Mammals of the Kruger and other*
*National Parks* by Labuschagne & Van der Merwe (1963). The following are
amendments and additions to these works.

FOREST SHREW
BOSSKEERBEK
*Myosorex varius*
(Smuts, 1832)
One specimen collected at Berghof by Botha and Clarke (lab. specimen) on
1967.11.13.

HOTTENTOT GOLDEN MOLE
HOTTENTOT-GOUEMOL
*Amblysomus hottentotus*
(A. Smith, 1829)
Fairly common, collected at Babylons Toren and Weltevrede.
CAPE HARE  
Lepus capensis  
Linnaeus, 1758

De Graaff & Nel (1970) recorded the species. Nel & Pretorius (1971) however state this was probably wrongly identified. The species has since been collected and is not uncommon on Rooiplaat.

RED ROCK HARE  
Pronolagus rupestris  
(A. Smith, 1834)

ROOIHAAS

Although Nel & Pretorius (1971) recorded P. crassicaudatus (greater red rock hare), we have only collected the much smaller P. rupestris (Smith's red rock hare). This species is common in all rocky areas and it is suspected that the former was wrongly identified.

WHITE-NAPED WEASEL  
Poecilogale albinucha  
(Gray, 1864)

SLANGMUISHOND

A single male was collected on Soetkop on the 1976.11.11.

WATER MONGOOSE  
Atilax paludinosus  
(G. Cuvier, 1829)

WATERMUISHOND

This is one of the most common small carnivores in the MZNP and why it has been overlooked in the past is not clear. The characteristic droppings and tracks are present throughout the MZNP where there is water.

SMALL-SPOTTED GENET  
Genetta genetta  
(Linnaeus, 1758)

KLEINKOL-MUSKEJAATKAT

Nel & Pretorius (1971) were unable to identify the genets in the MZNP, but the Small-spotted Genet has since been positively identified.

The large mammals of the MZNP, in particular their introduction are briefly discussed by Penzhorn (1971, Koedoe 14: 145-159). Penzhorn does not mention the presence of a small number of grey rhebuck Pelea capreolus in the Park; the last count revealed four adults in July 1979. The introduced reedbuck Redunca arundinum have all died. New additions to the Park which have come in on their own include bushpig Potamochoerus porcus (small number in Fontein Kloof), kudu Tragelaphus strepsiceros (moved in 1978/1979, numbered about 14 in February 1980) and bushbuck T. scriptus (adult male seen south of Berghof, December 1979). The bushbuck record is the first for the Cradock district as it is not listed in Skead (1958, Koedoe 1: 19-59).

Two clawless otters Aonyx capensis were accidentally released on the 1979.07.15 at Babylons Toren when they escaped from a temporary cage. They were caught in the district and are still in the Park at present (April 1980). As they are a male and a female they may become established.

The lower jaw of a young hyaena was found on Springbokvlakte which provides proof that either Hyaena brunnea or Crocuta crocuta occurred in the past. Gemsbok Oryx gazella were removed from the MZNP during 1981 because they were not doing well.